United Nations A/71/6 (Prog. 5)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 March 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Item 131 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 5
Peaceful uses of outer space

Contents

Page

Overall orientation 2

Legislative mandates 4

* A/71/50.

16-03754 (E) 110316

Please recycle

Overall orientation

5.1 The purpose of the programme is the promotion of international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space for economic, social and scientific development, in particular for the benefit of developing countries. The legislative authority and direction of the programme is drawn from relevant General Assembly resolutions and the decisions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which was established in 1959 by the Assembly in its resolution 1472 A (XIV).

5.2 The main responsibilities carried out by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the programme are: provision of substantive secretariat services to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies; implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (resolutions 2601 A (XXIV) and 37/90); implementation of the programme of the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) (resolution 61/110); discharging of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and related resolutions (resolutions 1721 B (XVI), 2222 (XXI), 2345 (XXII), 3235 (XXIX), 47/68, 59/115 and 62/101); and coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system (resolution 3234 (XXIX)). The Office also serves as the executive secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems and its Providers' Forum (resolutions 61/111 and 64/86) and draws additional mandates from other resolutions of the General Assembly, such as on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities (resolutions 68/50, 69/38 and 70/53).

5.3 The Programme on Space Applications is mandated to promote greater cooperation and build capacity in space science and technology. The priorities of the Programme include building indigenous capability in the areas of basic space sciences, basic space technology and human space technology and promoting the global navigation satellite system and integrated space technology applications in the areas of global health, disaster management, climate change, humanitarian assistance, environmental monitoring and natural resource management.

5.4 The UN-SPIDER programme was established to provide universal access to all types of space-based information and services relevant to disaster management to support the full disaster management cycle. UN-SPIDER serves as a gateway to space-based information for disaster management support, a bridge to connect the disaster management and space communities and a facilitator of capacity-building and institutional strengthening, in particular for developing countries.

5.5 The International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems was established to promote cooperation, as appropriate, on matters of mutual interest related to civil satellite-based positioning, navigation, timing and value added services.

5.6 The General Assembly, through its resolutions under the item entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space", annually guides the work of the programme.

5.7 The Office is also responsible for assisting States in building or enhancing their capacity in space law and policy, strengthening efforts at the national, regional and global levels, including among entities of the United Nations system and

international space-related entities, to maximize the benefits of the use of space science and technology and related applications and promoting and raising awareness of the benefits of space to humankind, particularly through the commemoration of historical milestones and celebrations such as World Space Week and the International Day of Human Space Flight.

5.8 The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be held in 2018, is expected to provide further direction and guidance on the work of the programme.

Objective of the Organization: To further strengthen international cooperation among Member States and international entities in the conduct of space activities for peaceful purposes and the use of space science and technology and their applications towards achieving internationally agreed sustainable development goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	*Indicators of achievement*
(a) Greater understanding, acceptance and implementation by the international community of the legal regime established by the United Nations to govern outer space activities	Increased number of actions taken by States and intergovernmental organizations in order to implement or adhere to the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space and related resolutions, including ratifications and treaty obligation compliance
(b) Strengthened capacity of countries in using space science and technology and related applications, including global navigation satellite systems, particularly in areas related to sustainable development	(i) Increased number of countries taking action to build and enhance capacity in space science and technology and related applications
	(ii) Increased number of countries taking action to benefit from space-based positioning, navigation and timing services, including applications and research
(c) Increased coherence and synergy in the space-related work of entities of the United Nations system and of international, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities to advance human development and increase overall capacity development	Increased number of joint activities with United Nations system organizations and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental entities to strengthen capacity and use space science and technology and related applications
(d) Increased commitment of countries and relevant international and regional organizations in establishing and maintaining ways and means of accessing and developing the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle	Number of actions by countries and relevant international and regional organizations incorporating space-based information in existing or draft disaster risk reduction strategies, disaster management policies or emergency response protocols

Strategy

5.9 The strategy includes:

(a) Promoting greater awareness of and strengthening the capacity to implement the international legal regime governing outer space activities, including

the development of national space legislation, and promoting increased capacity in and awareness of space law and policy and transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities;

(b) Strengthening the capacity, particularly of developing countries, in the use of space science and technology and related applications for sustainable development and increasing awareness of the benefits of space-based solutions in addressing societal needs;

(c) Using appropriate cooperation mechanisms and platforms for maximizing the use of positioning, navigation and timing services for sustainable development, including through the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, which is a successful intergovernmental platform for cooperation, coordination and synergy;

(d) Assisting in consensus-building on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space among Governments and other stakeholders;

(e) Strengthening existing cooperative relationships and forging new partnerships to maximize the effective use of resources and identify new ways and means for making space capabilities more readily available to all users.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

1472 A (XIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
1721 B (XVI)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2222 (XXI)	Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies
2345 (XXII)	Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space
2453 (XXIII)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
2601 A (XXIV)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3234 (XXIX)	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
3235 (XXIX)	Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space
37/90	Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
47/68	Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space
54/68	Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

59/2	Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
59/115	Application of the concept of the "launching State"
61/110	United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
61/111	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
62/101	Recommendations on enhancing the practice of States and international intergovernmental organizations in registering space objects
64/86	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
65/271	International Day of Human Space Flight
68/50	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities
68/74	Recommendations on national legislation relevant to the peaceful exploration and use of outer space
69/38	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities
70/53	Transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities
70/82	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space